

REMARKS

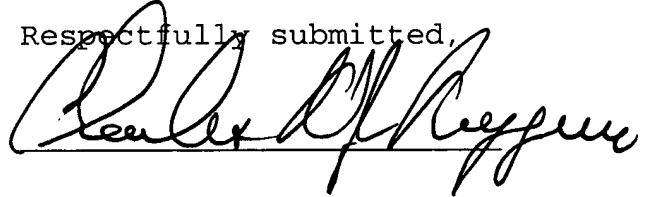
Claims 1 to 29 remain pending. Claims 11, 12 and 19 to 24 have been withdrawn.

Claims 1 to 29 are re-presented in view of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment.

Reconsideration of claims 1 to 10, 13 to 18 and 25 to 29 is deemed warranted in view of the foregoing, and allowance of said claims is earnestly solicited.

Dated: November *27*, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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